

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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R 231245Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2759

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5752

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: CABINET STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PERES ON GUSH
EMUNIM IN HEBRON

REF: JERUSALEM 1099

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE PERES TOLD THE CABINET ON AUGUST 22 THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR EFFORTS BY THE GUSH EMUNIM TO TRANSFORM AN UNUSED HEBRON BUILDING INTO A SYNAGOGUE (REFTEL). PERTINENT EXTRACTS OF PERES' STATEMENT ARE QUOTED FROM THE OFFICIAL CABINET COMMUNIQUE. BEGIN TEXT.

2. REFERRING TO THE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY GUSH EMUNIM MEMBERS TO INFILTRATE INTO THE FORMER "HADASSAH" BUILDING IN HEBRON AND TRANSFORM IT INTO A SYNAGOGUE, THE DEFENSE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT THIS STRUCTURE HAD BEEN LEASED BY THE JORDANIANS TO THE U.N.R.W.A. BEFORE THE SIX-DAY WAR -- AND THAT FOLLOWING THE SIX-DAY WAR, ISRAEL HAD UNDERTAKEN TO CONTINUE THIS LEASE ARRANGEMENT. THE U.N.R.W.A. WAS ADMITTEDLY NOT USING THE BUILDING AT PRESENT, BUT THE ORGANIZATION INSISTED THAT THE STRUCTURE BE PLACED AT ITS DISPOSAL. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAW NO REASON FOR A UNILATERAL VIOLATION OF ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT ON THE SUBJECT. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE STRESSED THAT THERE WERE FIRM AND ABIDING SUITABLE PRAYER ARRANGEMENTS AT KIRYAT ARBA AND THE TOMB OF

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THE PATRIARCHS, AND THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR INFIL-

TRATING INTO THE FORMER "HADASSAH" BUILDING IN ORDER TO
TRANSFORM IT INTO A SYNAGOGUE. THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS
TO INSIST THAT NO FACT BE ESTABLISHED IN HEBRON WITHOUT
A CABINET RESOLUTION. END TEXT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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